

HDB(25)23

Humanities Divisional Board

Approved by Associate Head (Education) on 27 June 2025

Title of Programme/ Name of Regulation

Research Degrees in Theology and Religion

Brief note about nature of change:

Clarification of deadlines, and on word count

Effective date

For students starting from **MT25**

and

For first examination from **2025-26**

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2024-25*

<https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/Regulation?code=rditheoandrel&srchYear=2024&srchTerm=1&year=2024&term=1>

Detail of change

(...)

2. Transfer to M.Litt. or D. Phil. Status

Students are expected to pass Transfer by the end of their fourth term, or eighth term in the case of part-time candidates, from admission to PRS status.

^{1.2}All students admitted to Probationer Research Student (PRS) status will be required to submit an application to transfer to M.Litt. or D.Phil. status no later than six weeks before Transfer is due. ~~Monday of Week 0 in the candidate's third term (or Monday of Week 0 in the candidate's sixth term in the case of part-time students).~~ In exceptional cases the

Faculty's Graduate Studies Committee may permit the candidate to postpone submission; candidates seeking such postponement must apply to the Director of Graduate Studies for deferral of transfer of status well in advance, and no later than six weeks before Transfer is due. Monday of Week 5 of the candidate's second term (or the Monday of Week 5 of the candidate's fourth term in the case of part-time students).

3. Confirmation of D.Phil. status

Students are expected to pass Confirmation by the end of their eighth term, or sixteenth term in the case of part-time candidates, from admission to PRS status.

^{1.3} Application for confirmation of D.Phil. status, with endorsements by the candidate's college and supervisor, shall normally be presented no later than six weeks before Confirmation is due. by Monday of Week 0 in the seventh term after admission to the D.Phil. programme (or in the candidate's fourteenth term after transfer to full D.Phil. status in the case of part-time students) but must be presented no later than Monday of Week 5 in the eighth term (or in the candidate's sixteenth term in the case of part-time students). In exceptional cases the Faculty's Graduate Studies Committee may permit the candidate to postpone submission by one term; candidates seeking such postponement should apply to the Committee through the Director of Graduate Studies well in advance, and no later than six weeks before Confirmation is due.

4. Theses

^{1.4} Theses submitted for the Degree of M.Litt. should not exceed 50,000 words, or 100,000 for the D.Phil., excluding only the bibliography in both cases, and excluding excluding only the abstracts and the bibliography in both cases. The faculty board is prepared to consider an application for a relaxation of this limit in special circumstances.

(...)

Explanatory Notes

There has been confusion amongst staff and student alike on submission deadlines for milestones, which we are seeking to clarify, pending a more thorough divisional review on submission v. achievement of milestone deadlines.

We clarify that the word count for the faculty-specific abstract does not count towards the thesis word count.